

REMARKS

During a telephonic interview between the undersigned attorney and the examiner on November 24, 2004, the various rejections of the claims were discussed with respect to the present invention and the cited prior art references. A summary of the telephonic interview is presented below.

On page 2 of the office action, the examiner requests correction of Fig. 1 of the drawings. Figure 1 has been amended for clarification purposes, in compliance with the examiner's request.

On page 3 of the office action, the examiner objects to the various aspects of the specification, and requests appropriate correction. In compliance with the examiner's request, the specification has been amended in accordance with the examiner's instructions.

Claims 1, 26, 41, and 48 have been amended for clarification purposes, as requested by the examiner on page 3 of the office action.

Claims 1-10, 13-22, 26-36, 40-42 and 46-50 are rejected by the examiner under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Luciani (US Pat No. 6,331,984). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In general, the teachings of Luciani are directed to a method for distributing Network Address Translator (NAT) translation table information among border routers associated with a routing domain using the Server Cache Synchronization Protocol (SCSP). The NAT translation table information is included in one or more Cache State Advertisement Summary (CSAS) records in a SCSP Cache State Advertisement (CSA) message. Network address information, i.e., local network address and corresponding global network address, are transmitted in the CSA messages and exchanged between a group of interconnected SCSP capable border routers. (Abstract)

From this teaching it is clear that the CSA messages of Luciani may only be exchanged between SCSP capable boarder routers. Accordingly, the invention of Luciani is limited to SCSP capable boarder routers. In contrast, the technique of the present invention may be used to enable non SCSP capable routers to perform NAT address table synchronization. Thus it will be appreciated that the method of Luciani does not realize at least some of the benefits and/or advantages of the present claimed invention as defined, for example, in independent claims 1, 13, 26, 31, 35, 41, 43, 46, 48, 49, 50.

Additionally, the method of Luciani does not teach or suggest other features of the present claimed invention as defined, for example, in claims 2-5 of the present application. For

example, the examiner further states on page 5 of the office action that Luciani discloses a first NAT entry field (210, Figure 2 of Luciani) relating to an identity of a specific network device which is responsible for controlling modification of that particular NAT entry. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described in the specification of the present application, pp. 20-21, for example, in at least one embodiment of the present invention, a NAT Table entry (such as that illustrated, for example, in Figure 4B) may include a NAT ID Field 466 which may be used to identify a particular SNAT device which originally created the corresponding NAT entry. In one implementation, each SNAT device has an associated NAT ID for uniquely identifying that particular device. Additionally, according to at least one embodiment, the ability to modify a NAT Table entry or associated timer may be restricted to the particular SNAT device specified by the value of the NAT ID Field 466.

In contrast, column 5, lines 27-31 of Luciani states:

FIG. 2 illustrates an embodiment of the NAT translation table 200 that resides in a border switch or router. The entries shown in FIG. 2 provide mappings as necessary to translate a local IP address 210 in a leaf routing domain to a globally unique IP address 220, and vice versa.

From this teaching it is clear that the local IP address field 210 of Luciani corresponds to a local IP address associated with a NAT table entry corresponding to a particular node in the local area network. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Luciani that the local IP address field 210 corresponds to a NAT ID field relating to an identity of a specific network device which is responsible for controlling modification of particular NAT entries in NAT translation table 200 of Luciani. Accordingly, it is submitted that the additional features defined, for example, in claim 2 in the present application are neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Luciani or the other cited prior art references.

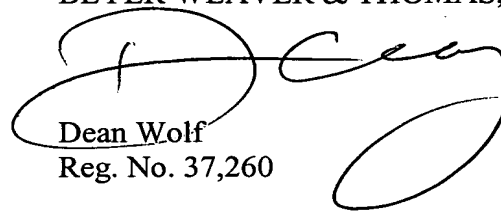
Additionally, it is submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in Luciani for consulting the NAT ID field corresponding to a particular NAT entry to determine whether modification of that particular NAT entry may be performed, as defined, for example, in claims 3-5 of the present application. Accordingly, it is submitted that the additional features defined, for example, in claims 3-5 in the present application are neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Luciani or the other cited prior art references.

Claims 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 51 define features which are similar to those defined, for example, in claims 2-5, and are also believed to be neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Luciani or the other cited prior art references.

Because the presently pending claims are believed to be allowable in their present form for at least the reasons stated above, many of the examiner's rejections in the Office Action have not been addressed in this response. However, applicant respectfully reserves the right to respond to one or more of the examiner's rejections in subsequent amendments should conditions arise warranting such responses.

Claims 1-53 are presently pending in the application. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Jayasenan et al.

Application No.: 09/735,199

Filed: December 11, 2000

Title: STATEFUL NETWORK ADDRESS
TRANSLATION PROTOCOL
IMPLEMENTED OVER A DATA
NETWORK

Attorney Docket No.: CISC191/ 3929

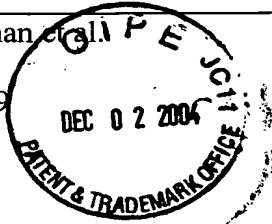
Examiner: WONG, BLANCHE

Group: 2667

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail on November 29, 2004 in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Signed: _____

Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John L. ...", written over the line for the Secretary's signature.

**SEPARATE LETTER TO THE OFFICIAL DRAFTSMAN
REQUESTING ENTERING OF NEWLY AMENDED FORMAL DRAWING
(MPEP 608.02(p))**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the objections made by the Examiner, enclosed is a substitute (formal) drawing of Figure 1, as well as an annotated version indicating the amendment for your review. If the Draftsman has any question concerning these drawings, he or she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dean E. Wolf", written over the line for the signature.

Dean E. Wolf

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